

A

True and Genuine

# ACCOUNT

Of the Last  
Confession and Dying Words  
OF

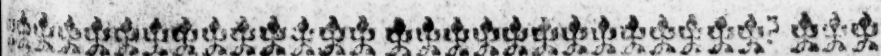
JOHN GOW, alias SMITH,  
CAPTAIN of the  
**Pirates.**

AS LIKEWISE

Of the Eight others, who were Executed with him, on June 11th, 1725.  
At Execution-Dock, for MURDER and  
PIRACY.

To which is Added,

A Relation of the Behaviour and Confession  
of Alexander Rob, who was likewise Executed  
for PIRACY, on the 2d of July. By the  
CLERGYMAN, who attended them all the Time  
they were under Sentence. N. B. All the pre-  
tended Accounts hitherto Publish'd, are ut-  
terly false and forg'd by Persons of no Credit  
or Character.



LONDON, Printed for T. WARNER, at the  
Black-Boy in Pater-Noster-Row. Pr. Three Pence.

4



7  
C



A N

# ACCOUNT

Of the Behaviour, Confession,  
and Dying Words of the  
PIRATES, who were Exe-  
cuted on the 11th of June  
and on the 2d of July last.

At the King's Commission of the High Court of Admiralty, and Oyer and TERMINER, and Goal delivery of Newgate, held before the Honourable Sir Henry Penrice, Judge of the High Court of Admiralty, Mr. Justice Tracey, and Mr. Justice Reynolds, at Justice Hall in the Old Baily, on Wednesday and Thursday being the 26th and 27th Days of May, in the Eleventh Year of his Majesty's Reign: Twelve Men were by the Jury found Guilty of Capital Offences, and Received Sentence of DEATH.

OF these twelve Persons, three receiv'd His Majesty's most Gracious Reprieve: The others finding themselves included



in the dead Warrant; began to think seriously upon Death; most of the Malefactors (excepting very notable Offenders) flattering themselves with some faint Hopes of Favour, untill all their Endeavours and Petitions for Reprieves or Remissions were rejected and discover'd to be of no use to them. During their Continuance under the Sentence of Death, they were instructed from these Words. *Then said Jesus unto his Disciples, if any Man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his Cross, and follow me. Matt. 16. 24.* From this was shown to them, what is imply'd in this Expression of our Blessed Lord's: *Whosoever will come after me*, which denoteth to us the Universality of those who are invited to come unto *Christ*, *Whosoever*, i. e. All, or every Man, of whatever Nation, in whatever Circumstances. whether Poor or Rich, Noble or Ignoble, &c. Let him come to me i. e. let him believe in me as his only Redeemer and Saviour; and I will make him my Disciple, he shall be adopted into my Family, &c. Then was shown to them, what kind of Faith is acceptable to God, not a dead Faith, but that Faith which appeareth by its Effects in the Lives and conversations of Men, bringing forth manifold Fruits unto new Obedience, Holiness, and Virtue: Next, From these Words were explain'd to them, the two great Conditions upon which, *Christ* promiseth to receive them into the number of his Disciples, namely, Self-denial, a renouncing of all the Vanities, Riches, and Pleasures of this World, an inordinate Love to which had undoubtedly been the Cause of their Misfortunes and Calamities, &c. The next great Condition of the Gospel here mention'd is the *Cross*; which signifies their being willing not only to do, but also to suffer for the Name of



of JESUS. But the Grace of God, not being given them to suffer for so good a Cause: Therefore since they were to suffer by the hand of Justice for their wicked Actions, they were exhorted very solemnly to Repent for all their Sins, and Particular for the crying Sins of Murder, and Robbery, of which they stood convicted. Here was shown unto them, that the Vengeance of God never fails to pursue the Murderer; and altho' (which rarely happens) he should escape Punishment in this World, yet he cannot possibly escape the vindictive Justice of God in the next Life, &c. And the Evil of Robbery was shown them, both from the injustice thereof, and from the innumerable Inconveniencies, and Mischiefs following thereupon &c. They were Informed concerning the *Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*, from these Words, *Blessed are they who are called to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.* Rev. 19, 9. *This do in Remembrance of me.* Luke 22. 19. *The Cup of Blessing which we Bieſs, is it not the Communion of the Blood of Christ; the Bread which we Break is it not the Communion of the Body of Christ? for we being many are one Bread and one Body: For we all are partakers of that Bread.* 1 Cor. 10. 16, 17. *And they continued stedfastly in the Apostles Doctrine and Fellowship, and in breaking of Bread, and in Prayer.* Acts 2. 42.

The Excellency of the *Christian Religion* was explain'd unto them, from these Words, Prov. 3. 17. *Her Ways are Pleasantness, and all her Paths are Peace.* It was demonstrated, that the *Christian Religion* does not only infinitely excel the most refin'd Heathen Moralities, but likewise, that it is by far perferrable to the preceeding Jewish Revelations; &c. And therefore that it nearly concern'd them to be followers of the HOLY JESUS, in order to be made Partakers of the Happiness

Happiness entail'd upon the sincere lovers of *GOD*, and *Disciples* of the *HOLY JESUS*.

While they were instructed from these and other Texts of Scripture, they seem'd to be attentive, but that Seriousness and mighty Concern which ought to be upon Men, approaching so very near to Death and Judgment, could scarce be discovered in them. But they were furnish'd with some Devotional and Practical Religious Books; in the reading of the *Holy Scriptures* and these Books, Meditating upon *Death*, *Judgment*, and a *Future State*, and making up their Peace with *God*, through *Jesus Christ*, upon account of whose Merits and Sufferings only, all of them declar'd that they expected everlasting Life, (as they said) They were mostly taken up Night and Day in the Condemn'd Hold. The Captain and Mr. *Ingram*, who were best qualified, reading and praying to the rest. Yet two or three of them complain'd upon one another, as guilty of Swearing and Lying, for which they were reprov'd and admonish'd to abstain from such Practices; as they lov'd their own Souls, which in a very short time were to enter upon an eternal State of Happiness or Misery. Such miscarriages are not much to be wonder'd at in young Men accusom'd to an irregular, dissolute Life. *James Williams*, and *Daniel Mackawley*, were all the time (except two or three Days after the Sentence when *Williams* attended the publick Worship in Chappel, and seem'd equally attentive with the rest) they were in the Condemn'd Hold afflicted with grievous Sicknes; and both of 'em, especially *Mackawley*, when they were exhorted and pray'd over, ingenuously confessing the great guilt of Murder and Piracy, declar'd, that they were heartily sorry, and earnestly repented for the same.

On Tuesday the First of June, the Report being made to His Majesty in Council, three of them, viz. *Brigstock Weaver, Michael Moore, and Alexander Rob*, receiv'd His Majesty's most Gracious Reprieve; the remaining Nine were ordered to Execution, viz. *William Ingram, John Gow, alias Smith, James Williams, Daniel Mackawley, Peter Rolson, alias Rollinson, John Peterson, John Winter, William Melvin, and James Belvin*. If any of the Honourable Judges on the Bench, any of the Jury, or of the Witnesses who appear'd as Evidences against them, are desirous to be inform'd, concerning their Behaviour, or Confessions, before, or at the time of Death; What we can add, is as follows.

*William Ingram*, of *London*, Mariner, was Condemn'd for voluntarily, going on board a pirate-Ship, named the *Good-Fortune Brigantine*, of which *Thomas Anstis*, was then Captain, as the said Brigantine lay at a Cape, to take in Water, and signing the Articles, about the Year, 1721; and continuing with the Pirates, after he might have made his escape, or gone his way, as several others Did, when Captain *Anstis*, gave freedom to every Man to depart, who was not willing to remain in his Service; and for his being active in fighting with Ships which made opposition, and receiving 35 l. as an officer's part of prize Mony; after the taking of two Dutch Ships and a Sloop (as he said) with whom they had been engag'd.

He was 50 Years of age, and appear'd always very devout and attentive to the Prayers and exhortations in Chappel and other times; But his Mind was mightily diverted from his preparations for Death, by the constant applications his Wife and some of his Friends made for a Reprieve. He was frequently told to lay aside all thoughts that way, which might prove a very Dangerous impediment



impediment to the Working out of his Souls Salvation: he always solemnly declar'd that he did not any ways depend upon expectation of Reprieves or Remissions, but was constantly taken up in reading God's word, practical and devotional Books, and serious thoughts about Death, and Prayers to God to prepare him for the same. He was Mightily concern'd and troubl'd, that he was to leave a poor Wife and five Young Children without any provission or Subsistence. He was told, that God who is a Father to the Fatherless, and an husband to the Widow, would not Suffer them to want, if they put their trust in him; But his great concern was to secure to himself a Portion in that heavenly inheritance, which should never be taken from him. He confess'd that he had been guilty of several acts of Piracy, while in that Service, but (said he) all who are in Company of the Pirates must comply with all their Commands, whether it be to Fight, Plunder or Rob all Ships and Men they meet with; which if they do not, the other Pirates, who are the most licentious, disorderly, and cruel Fellows under Heaven, will be sure to Shoot one through the Head, or Murder him one way or other. To sum up all, he alledg'd that all in their Company Prest or Volunteer, were necessarily oblig'd either to give blind Obedience to their Orders or submit to present Death. He averr'd also, that one of the Evidences against him, was one of the Men who first forc'd him on Board the Pirate Ship; and that he laid hold on the first handsome Opportunity of leaving them, and coming Home in a little Sloop with Twenty others, who were all equally and some much more guilty than he. He Confess'd also that they sunk the Ship in which they came home in *Bristol Channel*,

nel, but that he had no Hand in sinking her, for Nine of them of which he was one, went ashore the Day before the rest sunk and left the Ship, for doing whereof he knew no Reason but their Wickedness. He declar'd himself a real Penitent for all his Sins; that he died in Communion of the *Church of England*, of which he was born a Member, that he freely forgave all Men who had any ways Offended him, as he desired forgiveness at the Hand of God, and that he died in Peace with all the World. He appear'd mighty serious in his Devotions at all Times, and was very careful in performance of his Duties, so, that in Charity we are bound to Judge that he died a Christian in the Love of God, and Charity with all Men; only he was uneasie, when he thought upon his Wife and small Family, but for that he submitted to the Will of God, resigning himself wholly to him who makes every Thing work together for good to them who Love him. The Day before his Execution, he was still in some faint Hopes of a Reprieve, but in the Afternoon, his Friend coming and telling him there was no possibility of obtaining any Favour that way, he gave over all further Expectations, seeming no ways mov'd, but of the same smooth even Temper of Mind he was formerly.

**John Gow**, alias **Smith**, of *London*, Marri-  
ner, was Indicted for the Murder of *Bonadventure*  
*Jelphs*, on the *High-Seas*, within four Miles of  
*Santa-Cruz*, and within the Jurisdiction of the  
Admiralty of *England*, &c.

To this Indictment *John Gow* refus'd to Plead.  
For which (by Order of Court) his Thumbs  
were ty'd with Whip-cord, by the Executioner  
and another Officer, till the Cord broke. The  
Court pronounc'd Sentence, that (according to

Law ) next Day he should be Prest to Death. When the Press was prepar'd for Execution of the Sentence, he sent to pray the Court, that he might be admitted, which the Court granted. He was found guilty by the Jury, and Condemn'd for the Murder of Captain *Oliver Fernau*, on the *High-Seas*, within four Leagues of *Santa-Cruz*, and within the Jurisdiction of the Admiralty of *England*, by wilfully, and of his Malice afore-thought, discharging a Pistol loaded with Powder and Bullets, and thereby giving the said *Oliver Fernau* one mortal Wound in his Breast of the breadth of one Inch, and depth of seven Inches, on the second of *November* last, of which he instantly dy'd.

This *John Gow*, alias *Smith*, was ( as he said ) near Twenty eight Years of Age, and born in a remote Northern-Country, of Honest Respectful Parents: His Father was a Merchant of good Business according to the Country, and *John* being his only Son, he gave him the best of Education that is requisite for being a Ship Master, or a Merchant, he making good Progress at School, his Father made him Master of one of his own Ships, when he was but sixteen or seventeen Years of Age; but he being of a Proud Ambitious Spirit, could not be confin'd to these Northern Parts; and contrary to his Father's earnest Desire went abroad to raise his Fortune, his Father within a Year or two dying of Grief; this (he said) he was sorry for, that he had so far disoblig'd so Affectionate and Kind a Father, otherways he said, he had not been guilty of any uncommon Acts of Disobedience to his Parents. While he was under Sentence, he appear'd very serious and attentive to the Prayers and Exhortations, both at Chappel and in the Hold, when I visited the two sick Men under the same Sentence



tence with himself. He with Mr. *Ingram*, were mostly taken up Night and Day in Reading the Holy Scriptures, and Pious and Devotional Books, for their Profit and that of their Fellow-Criminals in the Condemn'd-Hold; to which *Daniel Mackanley* gave very attentive heed, being sore afflicted with sickness and by Reason thereof not capable to perform Duties himself, but appearing more affected with a Sense of his great Sin of Murder, than any of the rest did. Mr. *Bow's* Covetousness after Riches, to be obtain'd whatever way, either by Right or Wrong was the origine of his Misfortunes: For this it was that mov'd him at least to allow of all the execrable Murders which were committed upon the four chief Officers of the *GEORGE-GALLY*; he deny'd that he had any premeditated design against the lives of these Gentlemen, but in this he seem'd to Prevaricate, for when closely urg'd to make further Confession, he acknowledg'd that there was some design among the Sailors, but that he was not concerned in it, and that the Captain with the Chief Mate, *Skri-vane*, having freighted him and them in their Provisions was a pretence an occasion to the common Sailors to form such a wicked Conspiracy. He was Second Mate and Gunner of the Ship, and the Old Captain and Chief Mate being Murder'd; he said that the rest of the Crew oblig'd and in a manner forc'd him to accept the Command, there not being one left but himself, who could Navigate the Ship; but his covetous Temper seems to falsify this, of which he repented and beg'd God Pardon: He complain'd of one *Fea*, who apprehended him, contrary (as he call'd it) to his Word of Honour; I told him that he was certainly guilty of capital Offences, Seizing and Plundering so many Ships, al-

B 2

though

though Murder had not been prov'd against him, the Truth of which he own'd, but in diminution of his Crime alledg'd; that he treated the Men whom he took Civilly, giving 'em the same Entertainment he himself had, as all of 'em could testify. But he repented of sinking a *Scotch Ship* the second he took, and after keeping the Captain and Company Prisoners for some Days, giving the first Ship and Cargo that afterwards he took to the said *Scotch Master*: Thus enriching one upon the robbery and ruin of another. He complain'd also, that the Gentleman who apprehended him, having been his School-comrade for some Years; and an Intimate acquaintance both at Home and Abroad since they came to Age: Misrepresented him as one of the most barbarous Fellows on Earth, particularly, in Debauching some Young Women in the *Orkneys*, and in taking them on Board his Ship, and exposing them as common to all his Men; the Truth of this he absolutely deny'd, saying, that he was incapable of such an undecent Villiany: He freely forgave that Gentleman, he appear'd to be a Man naturally of good Sense, Education, and pretty Polite in his Carriage; but what ruin'd all those good Qualities: was his extraordinary Covetousness and Ambition, which he constantly lamented as his great Sin and Weakness. He was told, that a Man of his Capacity could not fail of Encouragement and Preferment in Trading Countries; this he did not doubt of, and added that he was in very good Business, when the sad Calamity befell him, but upon account (as is said) of some discontent between him and the Captain, he intended to leave the Ship at the first Port they should come to in the Mediterranean, although he was prevented by the unaccountable, unheard of Murder, of which he

he confest himself not altogether Innocent, but withal complaining mightily of some of the Evidences which appear'd against him, who ( as he gave out, were equally guilty with the rest ; being exhorted not to entertain any Grudge or Malice against any Person, he freely forgave them. Being ask'd about Articles, he told that he did make, sign, and cause his Men sign Articles, but that they were in prejudice to no Person, but only for preventing of Blood-shed among themselves, such as, that they should not wear any secret Fire-Arms, sharp Weapons or Knives, &c. About them, for Wounding or Murdering of one another, &c. When it was frequently propos'd by *Williams*, whom they call'd their Lieutenant, that when they took any more Ships, they should Murder all the Men by binding 'em Back to Back and throwing 'em into the Sea ; he as Captain oppos'd that cruel and barbarous Proposal, telling him, that there was more Blood spilt already than they could be answerable for : And that while he was alive and had any command in the Ship, he should not be suffer'd to put such a design in Execution, unless he first Murder'd himself, which (added he) he durst not attempt in a fair way. told that when he left the *Orkneys*, he intended to sail for the Coast of *Newfoundland*, and to take more Men on Board ; but God in his just Providence would not suffer him and his most wicked Accomplices to go any longer in such desperate Courses, which 'ere this time might have prov'd to the Ruin of many poor Families. It griev'd him much, that he was represented to the World, as one of the vilest Men that ever lived in many Respects, whereas ( excepting that barbarous Misfortune to which he was accessary ) he alledg'd that preceeding that, he had not committed



mitted any Criminal Action or unbecoming a Gentleman: And indeed, several Persons who knew him formerly gave him a good Character, as a Man of a singular good Temper and agreeable Behaviour, upon which account they much lamented his having Committed those Crimes of late, which justly brought upon him all his Miseries and Misfortunes; he was advis'd to Consider that *Christ* his *Saviour* was a Man of Sorrows, and acquainted with Griefs, and that one of the chief Persecutions he endured, was to be reproach'd of the *Scribes* and *Pharisees*, and therefore, if now he intended to renew himself by repentance, he must in the first Place be in some Measure conformable to him in his Sufferings, in order to be made Partaker of his Glory. He declared that he believed the Immortality of the Soul, and all the Articles of the CHRISTIAN FAITH, expecting Salvation only by the Merits of *Jesus Christ*. Some Days before he Dy'd, he was much vex'd, that he had read in some of the News-papers, that his Body was to be expos'd by being hung in *Chains*. I told him that if his Soul was well and happy with God, his Body, would be rais'd up at the last Day, and made like unto *Christ's* most glorious Body. He dy'd in Peace with all the World, freely forgiving every Body, who had Offended him, &c. And was very Penitent for all his Sins. The Day before his Execution, he Confest, that some of the Men, but he would not name one by another, communicated, or at least insinuated to him some Project or Design they had of Running away with the Ship and turning PIRATES. Being ask'd why he would not apprize Captain *Fernau* of this, he would not give any other Answer; but that as he refus'd to meddle in such a pernicious Purpose,

pose, so neither was he oblig'd to tell the Captain. To sum up all, he went to Death denying prepenſe Malice against Captain *Fernau* and the other Officers: But it ſeems he was indifferent what became of them upon ſome Diſobligations; neither did he vindicate himſelf as altogether free of the Murder. And own'd that his covetouſneſs had juſtly drawn down the Judgments of God upon him. The Night before they ſuffer'd, as I was exhorting *Williams* and *Mackawley*, the two ſick Men in the Hold; and ſhewing to them the great Sin of coverouſneſs, The Captain (upon my citing the Apoſtle's Expreſſion, *the Love of Money is the Root of all Evil*) ſaid over and over, Alas! Alas! that is the Ruin of us all. To which all the reſt aſſented, lamenting over covetouſneſs with one Conſent.

*James Williams*, was found guilty by the Jury, for the Murder of *Stephen Algieri*, on the *High-Seas*, within four Leagues of *Santa-Cruz*, &c. by Maliciously and Prepenſely giving him a Mortal-Wound in the Head, by the Diſcharge of a Piſtol loaded with two Bullets, &c. On the ſecond of *November* laſt; of which Wound he ſaid *Stephen Algieri*, inſtantly Dy'd.

This *James Williams*, (about 30 Years of Age) confeſt himſelf guilty of the Crimes, *Viz.* Murder and Piracy, for which he ſuffer'd. He was one of the main Contrivers, and Executioners of the Wicked Plot, and put the two *Swedes*, the *Jane*, *Mackawley* and *Melvin*, upon the Commiſſion of that execrable Murder. He confeſt ſo, that he Threatned and Commanded *Michael Moore*, to Shoot the Chief Mate thro' the Head with a Piſtol; of which Wound he immediately dy'd. He was not able to come to Chapple but two or three Times, being grievouſly afflicted with Sickneſs, which confin'd him to the Hold,

Hold, till the Day of his Execution. He was altogether Illiterate, so that he could neither Read nor Write, yet his excess of wickedness gave him Merit to be declar'd Lieutenant of the Ship. He was very sensible of and grieved for his heinous Sins, in not only committing them himself, but also advising the rest to act their Parts of the bloody Tragedy; particularly the Boy *Moore*, of 17 Years of Age to Murder the Mate. He being ask'd, if the Captain knew of the Murder before hand, Answer'd, Yes, you need not doubt but he knew of it: He told that the design of the Murder was not above two Hours, before it was put in Execution. Which the Captain also affirm'd, but deny'd any Knowledge he had of it, but by Information he had from others afterwards. *Williams* was extremely sensible of and griev'd for his Sin, dy'd in Peace with all the World, forgiving all Men who had done him Offence, &c. And believing that his Sins were to be Pardoned and Eternal Life Obtain'd only through the Merits of *Jesus Christ*.

*John Winter*, was found guilty by the Jury, for cutting the Throat of *John Guy*, the Surgeon with a Knife, of which he instantly dy'd. And also, for cutting the Throat of Captain *Fernau*, although he did not immediately dye of the Wound, on the Second of *November* last.

This *Winter* about 23 Years of Age, was a Foreigner, and could scarce speak any *English*, a Clergyman of his own Nation who attended him while under Sentence told me; that he ingenuously confess'd both the Sins of Murder and Piracy for which he dy'd. That the Lieutenant *Williams* put him upon it, and altho' the Captain did not speak to him, leaving that to *Williams*, yet he took his Hand upon it, and assign'd them their different Posts, where they were



were to commit the bloody Tragedy. He wept and declar'd great Grief and Sorrow of Heart, for the enormous Crimes he had committed, dy'd in Peace with all the World and Penitent.

**John Peterson**, between 30 and 40 Years of Age, was found guilty by the Jury, for cutting the Throat of *Bonadventure Jelphs*, &c. And **Peter Rolson**, alias *Rollinson*, about 25 or 26 Years of Age, was found guilty by the Jury, for endeavouring with *Melvin* to fling Captain *Fernau* overboard, both before and after his Throat was Cut, and otherways assisting and abetting the rest in their execrable Murders; four Leagues off *Santa-Cruz*, upon the Second of November last, &c.

Both these Men were Foreigners of one Country, and had a Minister of their own Nation to attend 'em, who told me that both of 'em acknowledged their guilt, and the justice of their Sentence, and that *Peterson* shed abundance of Tears, confessing that his Sins in the preceeding part of his Life had been very great, such as is not proper to mention. All these three Foreigners acknowledged that God in Justice had afflicted them, blam'd the Lieutenant for advising them, and said the Captain took their Hands as an assurance of perpetrating the intended Murders, without speaking to them. *Winter* and *Peterson* were very Penitent, shedding Tears in great plenty, but *Rollinson* who was made Gunner upon their new Regulations, was a little more Harden'd. All of them died Protestants, in Communion of those Churches of which they were born Members, in Peace with all the World, and Penitent.

**William Melvin**, was found guilty, for endeavouring to throw Captain *Fernau* into the Sea, with assistance of *Rollinson*, and otherways assist-

ing the rest in commission of the Villainous Murders, four Leagues of *Santa-Cruz*, on the Second of *November* last,

*Melvin*, said that he was about 17 or 18 Years Old, that he was advis'd to these barbarous Actions by *Williams*, that he only knew of their Design about 4 or 5 Minutes before the Execution, that he comply'd for fear they had Murder'd himself. It was shown him, that he ought rather to have lost his own Life than to have joyn'd in such Horrid Murders. He entertain'd some small Hopes of a Reprieve which made him less careful of his Duty; but when all his Expectations fail'd, he minded nothing but the Affairs of another World and Preparations for Death, confessing and repenting of the Crimes for which he died; and declaring himself in Peace with all Mankind, &c.

*Daniel Mackawley*, was found guilty by the Jury, for cutting the Throat of *Stephen Algieri*, whom afterwards, *Williams* the Lieutenant Shot Dead with a Pistol, on the Second of *November* last, within four Leagues of *Santa-Cruz*, &c.

This *Mackawley* about 25 or 26 Years of Age, was born in one of the remote *British* Isles, of Honest Parents, who gave him Christian Education, teaching him to Read and Write, so that he understood his Duty as became a Man of his Station. But his Misfortune was to fall into the Company of such an execrable Rogue as *Williams*, with whom he was one of the principal Conspirators in order to Murder the four misfortunate Gentlemen; and then to go a Pirating with the Ship. He was the most Ingenious of them all in confessing his horrid Crimes of Murder and Piracy both before and after Sentence. He was so much afflicted with Sicknefs all the Time he was in the Hold, that he was never able to come

up

up to Chappel. When I went to Visit him and *Williams* in the Hold, he confest and bewail'd his Sins in a most pitiful Manner, acknowledging that he suffer'd most deservedly: But he was not able by Reason of Sicknefs to speak three or four Words at once. He acknowledg'd the premeditated design, but not above an Hour or two preceeding the Execution, between him and *Williams*, and the rest, of Murdering Captain *Fernau* and the other three Gentlemen, and that it was *Williams* put him upon and advis'd him to it, but he did not or would not name Capt. *Gow*; although he was not capable, because of his Illness, to express his Grief in Words, yet by Sighs and Groans; he gave signs of a deep and bitter Repentance. He was very attentive to all the Exhortations and Prayers, and to the Reading of the Scriptures and other Pious Books Night and Day by his Fellow Criminals. He show'd all outward signs of a true Repentance, which one in so weak a Condition could possibly do, begg'd God's Pardon and all the Worlds, for his many crying Offences, believ'd that he should be Saved only through the Merits of *Christ*, and died in Peace with all Men.

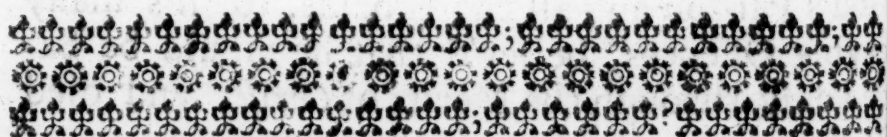
*James Belvin*, was found guilty by the Jury of Piracy, by assisting to take a Ship named the *Batchelor*, and taking out of her som Blocks and Sails, &c. And sending them on Board the *George-Galley*, &c.

This *Belvin* was a Young Man, about 23 Years of Age, he was a Bed and Sleeping when the Murder was committed, but was free and willing to follow the Piratical Trade afterwards. He complain'd upon *Melvin* another of the Malefactors for Swearing and Lying in the Condemn'd-hold: *Melvin* retorted upon *Belvin* as more guilty than he of the same Faults. I reprov'd 'em both ve-



ry sharply, showing them the great Evil of these Vices, as against the express Law of God, and what a dangerous Thing it was for them upon the very Brink of Eternity to be guilty of such Notorious Sins; which, if not Repented of, would Damn them for ever. They promis'd by God's Grace not to do so any more.

Before they left *Amsterdam*, he acquainted Captain *Fernau* of a Design some of the Company had of turning Pirates, upon which the then Boatswain was turn'd out, and *Belvin* put in his Place; he said that afterwards, till the Murder was over, they never communicated any thing of their Villainous Intentions to him. He confess himself guilty of some acts of Piracy; for which and all his other Sins he Repented, forgave all Men who had Offended him, and died in the communion of the *Church of England*, of which he own'd himself an unworthy Member, and in the Faith of being Saved through the Merits of *Jesus Christ*.



## POSTSCRIPT.

**T**HEY all went to Death, adhereing to their former Confessions. The Captain would acknowledge no more than what he had formerly done. All of them declar'd themselves heartily Sorry and Penitent for their Sins, especially those crying Sins, for which they were brought to Publick Shame. By

*James Guthrie*, who attended them as Ordinary while under Sentence, until they Died.

## A N

Account of the Behaviour,  
Confession, and dying Words  
of *Alexander Rob*, found guilty  
of *Piracy*, who was Executed  
on Friday the 2d. *July*  
last, at *Execution-Dock*.

The said *Alexander Rob*, was found guilty  
by the Jury, for Voluntarily entering into  
the Service of *JOHN GOW* alias *SMITH*,  
Captain of a Pirate-Ship; who with several  
of his Accomplices were Executed  
for *Murder* and *Piracie*, the 11th of *June*  
last, and after he had enter'd into the  
said Service, standing Centry upon his  
late Master the Captain of the *SNOW*, and  
some other Acts of *PIRACIE*.

THIS *Alexander Rob*, near 20 Years of  
Age, was born in *Galloway* (as he declares  
in his own last Words) of Honest Parents, his  
Father having been a Farmer and Fisherman,  
but he not willing to follow his Fathers Employ-  
ment was sent to *Glasgow*, and was bound Ap-  
prentice to a Master of a Ship, and being bound  
to the *Straits*, was taken by the *PIRATE Gow*, off  
of *Capt St. Vincent*. Captain *Gow*, alias *Smith*, said,  
that he did not force him into his Service, but  
*Rob* said, that both *Gow* and *Williams*, his Lieute-  
nant

nant threatened to Murder him if he did not stay with them and obey their Orders; accordingly the first piece of Service he was put upon, was to stand Centry upon his late Captain and Ships Company, which he denied to the last, and said he was only Centry over the Powder-Room. He gives Account of some Ships they took, all which they Plunder'd and some of 'em they Sunk, disposing of others as they thought fit. Being provided in all Necessaries for the Piratical-Trade, only their Ship wanted Cleaning, for which purpose they judg'd the Island of *Orkney* most proper, whither they went, the Captain being of that Country took four of them ashore to Rob a Gentleman's House, they being well Arm'd and Intoxicated with Strong-drink, and fearing nothing took what they pleas'd. The next Day the Boatswain with four others of the Men going ashore brought three Young-women on Board by force, and having us'd them as they pleas'd for two Days set them ashore again. Upon this the Country being alarm'd, they were oblig'd to go to another Part of the Island, but having no command, all of 'em being Masters, part of the Men going on Shore with the Boats were taken and at last the Captain and the rest of them being decoy'd to leave the Ship and come on Shore, they were all made Prisoners. *Alexander Rob*, got His Majesty's Reprieve for a Month, which made him entertain strong Hopes of obtaining a full pardon; notwithstanding which, all the time he was in the Condemn'd-hold with his fellow Criminals, who were Executed upon Friday, the 11th of *June* last, he attended Divine Worship in the Chappel constantly with them, and appear'd very Devout and Serious both at Prayers and Exhortations; but on Wednesday the 30th of *June*, an Account of the Dead War-

rant



rant being sign'd coming to him, he was mighti-  
 ly surpriz'd and struck with a dreadful Horrour  
 and Confusion, yet recollecting himself, he be-  
 gan and prepar'd himself for Death with the ut-  
 most application and great earnestness; he was  
 exhorted to submit to the will of God, who dis-  
 poseth upon all his Creatures, as seemeth him  
 good, whose Disposals upon us are still for our  
 good, as knowing best what is for our good and  
 advantage; and ordering every event of Life  
 whether Prosperous or Adverse for the Eternal  
 Welfare of them who Fear and Love God. He  
 submitted and resign'd himself to the Providence  
 of a Good and Gracious God: He thought it  
 hard to leave the World in his Youth and Vigour  
 of his Age. It was told him, that it was his  
 Duty to submit to the Laws of the Land which  
 took away his Life, and that besides the longer  
 he lived in this World, he was always contract-  
 ing great Guilt and committing more Sin, and  
 consequently should have the more to Answer  
 to Almighty God, for the many Errours of  
 his Life: Upon which he had reason to Sub-  
 mit, it being appointed for all Men once to  
 Die, and after Death to Judgment, but also by  
 going off the Stage of this Miserable World, in  
 his Younger Years, he was free of the many cry-  
 ing Sins he might have committed, in the remain-  
 ing part of his Life, more especially in that de-  
 sperately wicked Course of Life, which he had  
 Misfortunately undertaken. He seem'd to be con-  
 tented, in the Morning before he went to Exe-  
 cution, he came to CHAPPEL, and receive'd the  
 HOLY SACRAMENT very devoutly; till he was  
 carry'd out, behaving himself Christianly, and  
 decently, to the Satisfaction of all who saw him,  
 out of a deep sight and sense of his Sins, shedding  
 abundance

abundance of Tears, both in the Prison, and as they who saw him declar'd all the Way to the Place of Execution.

## At the Place of Execution.

**H**E continu'd very Serious in his Repentance, appearing most earnest in complying with the Prayers, and giving attentive Ear to the short Exhortations which were then directed to him, and in evidence thereof continuing to shed Tears plentifully. He said with a loud Voice to the Spectators, You Gentlemen SAILORS, I have only one word to say to you, *If any of you be taken by the Pirates, rather choose to be Shot immediatly by them, than to go along with them, which will bring you to such a miserable End as you see me now Suffering.* He declar'd, that he died a *Christian and Protestant*, in Communion of those among whom he had been Educated; that he forgave all Men, as he expected forgiveness at the Hand of God, that he expected eternal Life only through the Merits and Médiation of *Jesus Christ his Redeemer*, being in Peace with all the World. He appear'd a true Penitent. He declar'd that he dy'd Innocent of what he was convicted and that he was not a Voluntier in *Gov's Service*. This is the true Account given by me.

*F. G.*

Who attended him, and all the other PIRATES as ORDINARY all the time they were under Sentence, until they were Executed.

TH



This Paper underwritten concerning the Behaviour of *Alexander Rob*, is done by *Mr. Martin*, who was Witness to all the Account he gives, and has several Letters under his own Hand, while he was under Sentence, which his Friends may see, if they please to call for them.

**A**FTER *Mr. Rob* was Reprieved he sent *Mr. Martin* for one *Mr. Anderson* Minister of the Scots Church, in *Swallow-street*, *St. James's Westminster*; who came on the 10th of *June* last, and talkt with him in the Condemn'd-hold, and with the others that were Hang'd the next Day. After *Mr. Robs* Reprieve was out, and on the Morning of the 2d. Day of *July* when he was Hang'd, *Mr. Martin* brought *Mr. Anderson* again to *Mr. Rob*, who found him Engaged with the Reverend *Mr. Gaynam*, Minister of the *Mar-alsea*, who stopt at *Mr. Anderson's* coming in, but *Mr. Anderson* thinking it was the Ordinary of *Newgate*, desired him to proceed in his Office, and he did proceed, till *Mr. Rob* was call'd down to be put into the Cart; asking him before *Mr.*

D

*Anderson*



*Anderson*, whether he was not a Voluntier, and readily took on with Captain *Gow* alias *Smith*, and stood Centry upon his old Captain *Somervell*, Mr. *Anderson* also begg'd him to be sincere as a dying Man: And then poor *Rob* said, that as he hop'd for God's Mercy he declar'd as a dying Man, that he was Captain *Somervells* Cabbin-Boy, when that Captain *Gow* alias *Smith* took Captain *Somervell*. He let them all go except himself and the Carpenter *John Menzies*, that the Carpenter was Try'd in *Scotland* and acquitted, by Reason of his being Press'd into the service of the PIRATES, that he cry'd and roar'd to go along with his Crew, fell down upon the Deck, and would not yield to the Command of Captain *Gow*, alias *Smith*, and Lieutenant *Williams*, till *Williams*, threatned to blow his Brains about the Deck, or dispatch him some other Way, and that he was not a Voluntier but truly forced into the Service of the Pyrates, by those threatnings and by the fear of Death, that after thro' fear he had once comply'd to serve *Gow* alias *Smith* and *Williams*, they placed him with a Cutlash at the Door of the Powder-Room, but that he was never Centry over his Master Captain *Somervell*, that he was no Voluntier, but far from it, a press'd Man by fear of immediate Death, from the Beginning, That he had never any grudge against his Good Master, Captain *Somerville*, nor Quarrel with him, but lov'd him, and never lov'd the PIRATES. Mr. *Gaynam*, ask'd him, and Mr. *Anderson* ask'd him too, why was the contrary sworn against him, to which he answered, that the Evidence for the Crown he had often reprov'd for their wicked Life and Cursing and Swearing, and believ'd they had swore against him thro' Revenge and Spite, but he took Go

to Witness again that he was press'd into the *Pirates* Service and was far from being a *Voluntier*.

The said Mr. *Anderson* and Mr. *Gaynam* went to the Place of Execution, and after the Ordinary had given him suitable Prayers and Exhortations, and Mr. *Gaynam* also had prayed for and exhorted him in a few Words, Mr. *Robb* declar'd again that he was not a *Voluntier*, but forc'd into the Service of the *PIRATES*, to the same purpose as before. And that he forgave all his Enemies even those that had sworn falsely against him. Mr. *Anderson*, ask'd if he had any thing to communicate to his Parents and he reply'd nothing more now, but that I dye innocent and in Charity with all Men. Mr. *Anderson* bid him lift up his Heart to God at the Throne of Grace, to repent from his Heart of all his former Sins and rely upon the *Lord Jesus Christ* alone as his only Sacrifice for Sin, and his only Advocate with God the Father. To which he replyed, that he desired to do so, and that he was in a very *Christian Disposition* to Die, and hop'd for Everlasting Mercy thro' the *Lord Jesus Christ*, then Mr. *Robb*, bid us take notice that he died a *Presbyterian* to which the Ordinary and Mr. *Anderson*, said, that they suppos'd he meant a *Christian* of the Protestant Reform'd Religion; to which he replyed, yes, I mean so: And lastly Mr. *Robb*, call'd aloud to all *Gentlemen Sailors*, advising them that if ever they were taken by the *Pirates*, they should choose rather to be Shot thro' the Head or Cut to Pieces, than comply with their Demands; for that he was brought to this shameful End, by his submitting to their terrible Threatnings which Mr. *Anderson* pronounc'd aloud to the Spectators, and after Mr. *Anderson* had given him a few more Exhortations, He pray'd for him, with a loud Voice, in the hearing of many near the

the Scaffold, concluding with the *Lord's Prayer*, and the *Blessing*. During all the Devotions Mr. *Rob*, was very intent and serious, and all the time that Mr. *Rob* was at the Place of Execution the Spectators were very quiet, much affected and seem'd to regret his unhappy Fate, as an Innocent Youth, that died in a very *Christian Manner*; when he was Cut down the *Deputy Marshall* of the *Admiralty*, and other *Officers* and *Constables* left not the Place till Mr. *Anderson* got his Body, and Mr. *Martin* put him in a Coach and carried him to Mr *John Clark's* the *Undertaker* in *Fermyn-Street St James's Westminster*, who by order of *Robert Dalrymple Esq*; Cousin of the *Earl of Stairs*, and Mr. *Martin* (who knows his honest Relations) gave him a *Christian Burial* in *St. James's Upper Ground*, on *Lord's Day Evening*, the 4th of *July*, 1725.



FINIS.





3.  
e  
d  
n  
n  
y  
d  
r  
h  
-  
o  
of  
ys  
-  
y

3.

3.